

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

[c01] A device, comprising:

means for engaging a lock;
means for receiving an activation signal from a remote transmitter; and
in response to the activation signal, means for emitting an output signal that promotes finding the device when lost.

[c02] A device according to claim 1, wherein the means for emitting the output signal comprises a light source.

[c03] A device according to claim 1, wherein the means for emitting the output signal comprises a speaker.

[c04] A device according to claim 1, wherein the means for emitting the output signal comprises a light-emitting diode.

[c05] A device according to claim 1, wherein the means for emitting the output signal comprises a liquid crystal display.

[c06] A device according to claim 1, wherein the means for emitting the output signal comprises a piezoelectric device.

[c07] A device according to claim 1, wherein the means for engaging the lock comprises a blade for insertion into a keyway of the lock.

[c08] A key according to claim 1, wherein the means for engaging the lock comprises a male portion for insertion into a female portion of the lock.

[c09] A key for a lock, comprising:

a hollow body comprising a processor controlling receiver circuitry and audible circuitry;

the receiver circuitry receiving an activation signal from a remote transmitter; and
the audible circuitry producing an audible indication upon receipt of the activation signal,

wherein when the key is lost, the audible indication allows the key to be found.

[c10] A key according to claim 9, further comprising visual circuitry controlled by the processor, the visual circuitry producing a visible indication upon receipt of the activation signal, the visual indication also allowing the key to be found when lost.

[c11] A key according to claim 9, further comprising a blade protruding from the body, the blade for insertion into a keyway of the lock.

[c12] A key according to claim 9, further comprising a male portion protruding from the body, the male portion for insertion into a female portion of the lock.